



**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY  
MIKE STRAIN DVM, COMMISSIONER**



**Louisiana Board of Animal Health  
March 3, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
5825 Florida Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
Proceedings**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Thomas Early at 10:05 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE**

Mr. Thomas Early led the pledge.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called by Jaclyn Soileau.

**Members present:** Dr. Clark Cooper, Rayburn Smith, Kurt Cazayoux, Thomas Early, Brady Rutledge, David Mains, Bill Holdman, Vendal Fairchild, Giles Brown, Lennie Crawford, Dr. Anna Chapman, and Dale Cambre.

**Members Absent:** Dan Cason, Law Ponder, and Nickey Smith

**APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR**

Motion is made by Vendal Fairchild to approve Michelle Ribera to the position of Director of the Louisiana Board of Animal Health. Motion is seconded by Mr. Dale Cambre. Motion to appoint Michelle Ribera is passed. Dr Brent Robbins, then formally introduced Michelle Ribera as the director of the Board of Animal Health and spoke briefly on Mrs. Ribera's experience while at LDAF.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes of the last BOAH meeting is made by, Anna Chapman, DVM. Motion is seconded by Clark Cooper, DVM. Minutes are approved.

**ADJUDICATORY HEARING: GARY THOMPSON**

Thomas Early turned control of the meeting over to Mrs. Alicia Wheeler, the Assistant Attorney General from the State of Louisiana's Department of Justice. Mrs. Wheeler will be serving as the hearing officer in this case.

Amy McInnis, attorney for LDAF asked the board if any member wishes to recuse themselves due to a conflict. Giles Brown recuses himself.

Matter against Gary Thompson/ Respondent in Case Number 23-AH-001 in conjunction with investigations MC-22-170, MC22-174 and MC-22-206

Amy McInnis, attorney for LDAF reads the charges as:

Eighteen (18) counts of violating LA Revised Statute 3:2131

1. One (1) count for failure to properly dispose of livestock carcasses on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
2. One (1) count for failure to properly dispose of livestock carcasses on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
3. Sixteen (16) counts of failure to properly dispose of livestock carcasses from December 20, 2022, to January 4, 2023, on the Respondent's property.

*LA Revised Statute provides:*

- A. In order to prevent, control and eradicate anthrax or charbon glanders, blackleg, hemorrhagic septicemia, hog cholera and all other contagious or communicable diseases of mules, horses, cattle, sheep, goats, swine and poultry throughout the state, the carcasses of all animals shall be disposed of in a sanitary manner by cremation, deep burial or other sanitary method as approved by the United States Department of Agriculture.
- B. For the purposes of Paragraph (1) of this subsection "deep burial" means that the animal carcass shall be placed in a hole or pit not less than six (6) feet deep for the disposition of carcasses of cows, mules, poultry and horses, and not less than four (4) feet as applying to the carcasses of sheep, goats and swine.

Amy McInnis, on behalf of the Department calls Brand Enforcement agent, J.D Fail as the lead investigator and witness. Alicia Wheeler sworn Mr. Fail in to give testimony.

Mr. Fail testified as to the nature of the investigation, the number of carcasses found on Mr. Thompson's property, the location of the carcasses, photos that were taken by Mr. Fail during his investigation, as well as witness statements and statements from Mr. Thompson and his wife all of which were taken by Mr. Fail.

Mrs. McInnis introduced the photos taken by Inspector JC Fail to the board and upon completion, Mrs. McInnis asked the board to render its ruling in the case.

Mr. Lennie Crawford, BOAH member, expressed his dissatisfaction with the actions of Mr. Gary Thompson, and asked if there were any further actions that could be taken against Mr. Thompson. Amy McInnis then informed the board that it would be possible to seek a permanent injunction against Mr. Thompson. Thus, preventing him from acting as a livestock dealer in the state of Louisiana under any capacity. Such action could be done in further proceedings should the Board deem it necessary.

Alicia Wheeler asked if any board member would like to make a motion in the charge against Mr. Gary Thompson. Motion is made by Mr. Thomas Early to find Mr. Thompson guilty of Eighteen (18) violations of Louisiana RS 3:2131. Motion is seconded by Mr. Brady Rutledge. Giles Brown recuses. Motion is passed. Motion is made by Brady Rutledge to impose the full penalty of Eighteen Thousand dollars (\$18,000) against Mr. Gary Thompson. Motion is seconded by Thomas Early. Giles Brown recuses. Motion is passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Daniel Myrick gave report on the updated regulations for the Declaration of Emergency response to Chronic Wasting Disease/ CWD in Tensas Parish. Dr. Myrick showed via a map the current surveillance area for CWD in Tensas Parish as well as the locations where the positive wild deer were found.

Dr. Myrick gave updates to the Board regarding new regulations for Trichomoniasis positive bulls and suspect (positive) bulls testing, confirmatory testing, and movement to licensed quarantine facilities.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Amy McInnis and Dr. Daniel Myrick propose to the board new regulations concerning transport and maintaining requirements for Ovine and Caprine (sheep and goats) in the state. These regulation updates include official RFID tags for all change of ownerships, as well as live Scrapie positive sheep and goats, all suspect positive sheep and goats, all sheep and goats considered as high risk for developing Scrapie as defined by the USDA and all sheep and goats that have been exposed to Scrapie.

Modifications for ID placements for breed specific goats i.e., American Lamancha goats, who cannot be tagged through the ear. These breed specific goats will wear issued RFID tags on a collar around their necks. Motion is made to accept these regulation updates by Rayburn Smith and motion is seconded by Vendal Fairchild. Motion to accept updated regulations for Sheep and goats is passed.

### **Livestock Market Charter/ American Select Equine LLC.**

Mr. Nicholas Blaine Manuel has appeared before the Louisiana Board of Animal health for the purpose of obtaining a Louisiana Public Livestock Market Charter for his business, American Select Equine, LLC. Mr. Manuel has presented his completed market charter application; his fees are paid, and his surety bond is issued. Mr. Manuel is in good standing with the USDA Packers and Stockyards.

After considering his application and reviewing Mr. Manuel's financial statements, the Louisiana Board of Animal Health calls for a motion to approve the Public Livestock Market Charter for Mr. Nicholas Blaine Manuel/ American Select Equine, LLC. A motion is made to approve the market charter by Mr. William Holdman. Motion is seconded by Mr. Rayburn Smith. Motion to grant the Public Livestock Market Charter for American Select Equine, LLC., is passed.

## **Lifetime Brands**

Scott Perry came before the board to inform them of the updates concerning the new lifetime brand program. As of 2023, there has been a massive increase in the number of lifetime brands that have been applied for and approved. In 2016 there were approx. 4000 lifetime brands, by March of 2023 there are 5484 lifetime brands.

### **Saddle Microchip Program**

Scott Perry informed the board of the upcoming dates for the Louisiana Saddle Microchip events. This program has been considered quite successful in the past and has been well received by the equestrian community. The last microchipping event which took place in Abbeville, LA, more than 70 saddles were brought in and microchipped.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Thomas Early calls for a motion for the board to adjourn. Motion is made to adjourn by Dr. Clark Cooper. Motion is seconded by Giles Brown. The Louisiana Board of Animal Health meeting is adjourned at 12:00PM.

TENTATIVE